



SOUTH EAST PLAN – EXAMINATION IN PUBLIC ARTICLE FOR PUBLICATION

FUTURE OF THE SOUTH EAST- IT'S ALL IN THE BALANCE

The future of the South East over the next 20 years is up for debate for four months starting on 28 November 2006.

A planning framework for the region's future is set out in the South East England Regional Assembly's **South East Plan**. This Plan will be the subject of a hearing and debate (formally called an Examination in Public) led by independent planning inspectors who will review the Plan's content.

The South East is a successful region and the Assembly's Plan aims to maintain that and offer a good quality of life for everyone by ensuring a careful balance of homes, jobs and environmental protection.

Preparation of the Plan has taken three years of work by the Assembly and local councils, with input from business and community representatives. The Plan is based on in-depth research and analysis, as well as extensive public consultation.

What is the Plan about?

Assembly members and partners recommend that the region needs 28,900 new homes a year to meet the needs of current residents and their children and grandchildren. However, Assembly members stress that this will only be possible with investment of between £37billion and £47billion to provide the transport, schools, hospitals and green spaces that people living in these new homes will need. The Plan also sets out measures to preserve the region's attractive environment and vital resources such as water.

Why an examination into the Plan?

The 'Examination in Public' is a hearing to decide whether the content of the South East Plan sets the right framework for the region. It has been requested by Government. Three planning inspectors will look at the Assembly's Plan and hear evidence from other organisations in the South East who support or oppose details of the Plan.

Public can attend the hearings but only organisations invited by the inspectors can take part in debates. After the hearings the inspectors will report to Government on whether they think the Plan needs any changes. The inspectors' report is expected in summer 2007.

For more information see: www.southeast-ra.gov.uk/southeastplan

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